



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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DA 96-1718

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## DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR SILENT BROADCAST STATIONS: AM and FM STATIONS URGED TO FILE RELATED APPLICATIONS BY NOVEMBER 1

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 provides for the expiration of broadcast station licenses as a matter of law upon a station's failure to operate for 12 consecutive months. See Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56, § 403(l) (1996). The license of any station that went silent on or before February 8, 1996, when the legislation was enacted, will expire at 12:01 a.m. on February 9, 1997 if the station has not resumed operations during the year. See Order, Silent Station Authorizations, FCC No. 96-218 (May 17, 1996); Public Notice, Expedited Processing, DA 96-818 (May 22, 1996).

Commission records indicate that the licenses of many silent AM and FM stations which have not been designated for hearing will expire as a matter of law under the cited provision if the stations are not returned to the air before February 9, 1997. To resume operations, some of these stations will require prior Commission action on a related application, such as an application proposing a change of site or change of ownership. The Mass Media Bureau reminds licensees of these silent AM and FM broadcast stations that they may request expedited processing of these applications and strongly urges them to submit such applications no later than **November 1, 1996**. Because of factors such as public notice periods, applicants who do not file necessary applications by this date may not be able to resume operations before February 9, 1997 even if their applications are relatively routine. Silent station applicants also should use extreme care in preparing their modification and assignment applications because deficiencies in those applications slow processing considerably. Finally, the applicant should notify the Commission promptly upon its return to the air.

We remind silent broadcast stations of our expedited processing procedures. With each application, the applicant should submit a transmittal letter prominently labelled "REQUEST TO EXPEDITE APPLICATION OF SILENT STATION." Each letter should include (a) the station's call sign, city and state; (b) the type of application; (c) a brief explanation of why action on the application is necessary to return to the air and the date that the station's license will expire if it remains off the air. A separate copy of the letter should also be sent or hand-delivered directly to the relevant address on the attached list. For applications already on file, a letter containing the same information should promptly be submitted to the relevant address on the list.

Our issuance of this Public Notice or a station's submission of an application does not preclude our designating silent stations for hearing prior to automatic expiration in circumstances where the staff deems designation to be appropriate.

## **CONTACTS FOR SILENT BROADCAST STATIONS:**

### **AM, FM, FM Translator and Booster Stations, Radio Broadcast Experimental Stations:**

#### **Requests to Expedite:**

James Crutchfield  
Audio Services Division  
Mail Stop 1800B3, Room 332  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FAX: (202) 418-1410

#### **Notification that a station has gone silent or resumed operations:**

##### **FM Stations:**

Glenn Greisman  
Audio Services Division  
Mail Stop 1800B3, Room 332  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FAX: (202) 418-1410

##### **AM Stations:**

Sharlene Lofty  
Audio Services Division  
Mail Stop 1800B2, Room 344  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FAX: (202) 418-1411

### **TV, TV Booster, TV Broadcast Experimental Stations (Expedite Requests & Notification):**

Doris McGhee  
Video Services Division  
Mail Stop 1800E1  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FAX: (202) 418-2827

### **Low Power TV, TV Translator Stations (Expedite Requests & Notification):**

Hossein Hashemzadeh  
Video Services Division  
Mail Stop 1800E2  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FAX: (202) 418-2827

### **International Broadcasting Stations (Expedite Requests & Notification):**

Charles H. Breig  
Planning & Negotiations Division  
International Bureau, FCC  
Mail Stop 0800 C1, Room 872  
2000 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
FAX: (202) 418-0398